

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 2, 7 and 8, without prejudice; amend claims 1, 3 and 5; and add new claims 9-11. The status of the claims is as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A magneto-optical recording medium comprising:  
a magnetic recording layer for recording and holding information;  
a nonmagnetic layer provided on one side of said magnetic recording layer opposite to another side on which a light beam is incident; and  
a magnetic assist layer provided on said nonmagnetic layer;  
said magnetic assist layer having a coercive force smaller than an external magnetic field applied in recording or reproducing information;  
wherein said magnetic assist layer has magnetic isotropy.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) A magneto-optical recording medium according to ~~claim 2~~ claim 1, wherein said magnetic assist layer comprises a multilayer film composed of nonmagnetic metal and transition metal.

4. (Original) A magneto-optical recording medium according to claim 1, wherein the Curie temperature (Tc1) of said magnetic recording layer is lower than the Curie temperature (Tc2) of said magnetic assist layer.

5. (Currently Amended) A magneto-optical recording medium having a configuration such that information recorded can be read from a region smaller than a beam spot by applying an external magnetic field and directing a light beam in reproducing, said magneto-optical recording medium comprising:

a magnetic recording layer for recording and holding information;

a magnetic reproducing layer provided on one side of said magnetic recording layer on which said light beam is incident;

a nonmagnetic layer provided on another side of said magnetic recording layer opposite to said magnetic reproducing layer; and

a magnetic assist layer provided on said nonmagnetic layer;

said magnetic assist layer having a coercive force smaller than an external magnetic field applied in recording or reproducing information;

wherein said magnetic assist layer has magnetic isotropy.

6. (Original) A magneto-optical recording medium according to claim 5, wherein the Curie temperature ( $T_{c1}$ ) of said magnetic recording layer is lower than the Curie temperature ( $T_{c2}$ ) of said magnetic assist layer.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (New) A magneto-optical recording medium according to claim 3, wherein said multilayer film comprises Ag and Co alternately deposited.

10. (New) A magneto-optical recording medium according to claim 5, wherein said magnetic assist layer comprises a multilayer film including nonmagnetic metal and transition metal.

11. (New) A magneto-optical recording medium according to claim 10, wherein said multilayer film comprises Ag and Co alternately deposited.